

Public Schools Week

Tomorrow is the beginning of public Schools Week in California.

Most schools here and throughout the state will observe the week with special programs designed to give the public an opportunity to take stock of California's most important mission—the education of her children.

Theme of the week-long observance this year is "Keep America Strong—Support Our Public Schools."

As parents and taxpayers, the public has a very real investment in schools and all good investors have an obligation to see how their money is being used.

No one can fully understand the school program, of course, in one visit to the classroom. But it can become the beginning of a fuller understanding if this contact is followed by closer ties between teacher and parent.

Reluctant parents, tempted to stay home by the fireside in a soft chair, should recall that open house events at school provide an occasion for their children to show their labors and their progress. Indifference on the part of parents—and on the part of the community as a whole—breeds indifference in students.

Parents must never forget that successful educational programs are not the sole burden of the school. Home influences usually are decisive in how well children do, both in and out of the classroom.

Neither should parents forget that quality education costs money—and lots of it. One can't penny-pinch education and simultaneously expect a short-changed school to stimulate children to reach maximum ability potentials. The best home influences can't completely overcome a second-rate school.

And educators should remember that money alone cannot improve the quality of educational programs in the community. Spending will not solve all the problems, nor does it automatically guarantee a quality educational program.

Torrance's public schools are among the finest in the state—if not, indeed, the nation; yet, there are problems. Continued growth has created the need for additional classrooms; new programs must be devised to meet the constantly increasing needs of students in this new age; problems posed by dropout students must be faced.

These things, and more, must be done, however, within a framework of financial responsibility. Torrance has been fortunate that its boards of education over the years have been attuned to both the needs of our children and the burdens of our taxpayers. The result is a school system which provides one of the best educational programs in the state for a reasonable tax dollar.

Public Schools Week is a good time to assess the achievements and the failures of the Torrance schools. It is also a good time to re-emphasize this accepted but too often forgotten truth: Education is our wisest investment.

Take this opportunity to visit your child's classroom. Talk with his teacher. Examine the materials used by the teacher. You'll be surprised by what you learn.

Let the People Choose

Even though not required by the Constitution, most of the 50 states as they came into the Union, organized their legislatures following the federal pattern—one house apportioned according to population and one by geographical areas. In this way, statewide and regional interests were balanced with the concerns and wishes of the populous city areas. But on June 15, 1964, the Supreme Court by a six-to-three decision ruled that both houses in state legislatures must be made up of districts equal in population.

The question is this—by what right does a federal court set aside the wishes of the people and redesign the government of the states? Senator Everett Dirksen has introduced a Constitutional Amendment, Senate Joint Resolution 103, which, if adopted, would permit the people in each state to continue if they wished—to apportion one house of their state legislature on factors other than population. A majority of congressmen support this Amendment—but it takes two thirds approval to change the Constitution. Twenty eight states have passed resolutions calling for a national constitutional convention to bring the issue before the people—but 34 are required.

If our congressional members were chosen on the basis of population only, for both Representatives and Senators, instead of on population for Representatives, and then two Senators for each state regardless of population, the voters from small town and rural areas would have little voice in government. The people of every state must make their wishes known now.

Opinions of Others

Retraining of workers whose skills are no longer needed in a fine thing. Education for the children of poor families is also needed. Federal aid, if accompanied by complete local freedom is acceptable. When it comes to the point of having to guarantee every family an annual income, then something has happened to this great nation.—Rochester (N.H.) Courier.

Times change. We can look back along the years to a time when we paid no income tax, and neither did our friends. Now the Tax Foundation says Americans work 2 hours and 20 minutes of every eight-hour day just to meet their federal, state, and local tax bills.—Toledo (Iowa) Chronicle.



District Attorney Reports

Anti-Smut Measure Not Wise, Younger Declares

By EVELLE J. YOUNGER
District Attorney

Petitions to put an anti-obscenity initiative on the ballot—currently being circulated by a group named CLEAN, INC.—create a curiously different problem for the District Attorney's Office. We don't like to oppose the measure, but because of the manner in which it was drawn, it appears unwise to support it.

This view we share with many specialists in the field.

The best available judgment seems to be that several provisions in the initiative are unconstitutional. But if it passed, it would repeal existing obscenity laws. Then, if it were declared unconstitutional, we would have no way at all to prosecute those who spread smut in the community.

It should be remembered, too, that once it qualifies for election, nothing in the measure can be changed. The public cannot vote on part of a ballot proposition.

We have analyzed the CLEAN, INC. initiative line by line and word by word, and we have found it leaves vital questions unanswered.

It seeks, for one thing, to make a jury see things as if through the eyes of a juvenile. But we feel a jury must use its best adult judgment in deciding what is good or bad for minors.

Again, the measure would have a jury impose a fine on an offender, but it leaves unanswered whether a trial judge may add a jail sentence. Yet in many cases a period behind bars is the most effective way to discourage these offenders.

Too, the initiative would do away with the question of whether the book or picture, or whatever it is, has any redeeming social importance. But the U.S. Supreme Court says that must be considered. So this part of the measure would certainly make it unconstitutional.

In murky areas like these—and there are others—the initiative could founder and leave California unarmed against the smut peddlers. Not that we find everything about it dubious. Some things in it are highly commendable and should be supported by all decent citizens, and the California League Enlisting Action Now (CLEAN) has shown fine spirit.

Its founders, incidentally, include, among others, Lloyd Wright, Sr., past president of the American Bar Association; Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan; and Jack Schrade, state senator from the San Diego area.

Their work may be helpful in the end. It may win enactment of a measure like AB 87, which this department pushed unsuccessfully last year and which would protect juveniles from morally corruptive matter. Then we would all owe something to the men of CLEAN, INC.

If the question of obscenity seems to throw a cloud of confusion in general the topless waitress appears to leave almost everybody bewildered. Or so you would think if you answered our office telephones.

The fact is that a policeman cannot simply arrest a woman because some parts of her anatomy are uncovered. There is a fine line here between what is legally obscene and what is merely indecent. The crucial question is just what the girl does with her undraped body.

If she moves around in a way that is suggestive, there is a pretty good chance that she will find herself in trouble with the law. Our own recent prosecutions show that.

One thing apparently can be predicted safely about the effect of those recent decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court on obscenity—it will make things easier for us.

It seems likely that we will be able to prosecute some persons who appeared beyond our reach until now.

But it is also safe to say that material many may consider objectionable will continue to be circulated, and those who circulate it will remain beyond prosecution. One final forecast: It will take some time before we know how much further we can go because of the recent court rulings.

At last count there were still about 15 cases awaiting trial as a result of the rioting last August in central Los Angeles. And the story is the same as it has been: the District Attorney's office is ready, but the defense has not been.

There are about 50 defendants who have not had preliminary hearings. These are mostly persons who have jumped bail or who, for other reasons, have not been available for prosecution. But the big job is really over. We have disposed of more than 1,650 cases. Nobody is overworked any more because of the riots.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Essays Examine Negro's Contribution to America

Last year's symposium, "The Negro Writer in the United States," sponsored by the University of California Extension Division at Asilomar, has resulted in one of this season's most interesting books. This is "Anger and Beyond," edited with comment by Herbert Hill, writer, teacher and labor secretary of the NAACP, who directed the Asilomar affair.

"Anger and Beyond" is a collection of absorbing and vital essays by writers both Negro and white—Saunders Redding, Harvey Swados, Arna Bontemp, Nat Hentoff, Horace R. Cayton and others.

The book is a belated recognition of the Negro's contribution to the total American culture. It is also an examination of individual problems of Negro writers who are no longer "invisible men," as witness Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Le-Roi Jones.

The work has been a surprise success, Herbert Hill revealed during a visit here the other day. Along with

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Cassius Clay Has Backer In His Fight With Press

That the virulent attacks on Cassius Clay by sports-writers seem a little suspect (and annoyingly self-righteous). Clay's sins seem to be (1) that he really can fight, (2) that he is even more verbal than his attackers, (3) that he is consistently true to his beliefs, and (4) that he won't kow-tow to the Establishment and press. What the sportswriters want from a Negro heavyweight champ, obviously, is the prototype: a shuffling, shambling moron who blows his money, winds up broke, and becomes an object of pity. Clay is something new—and independent—and the old hacks don't know what to make of him.

That I don't trust men under 30 with beards any more than they trust men over 30 without them. And now that I've passed 50, I'm prepared to mistrust everybody, especially those who say, "But you don't LOOK it!"

Add Sights that stick: Screenstar Gregory Peck, nat'l chairman of the American Cancer Society, rising from his table at Del Vecchio's, walking to the cigarette machine, buying himself two packs. . . . You

know who's hotter at the box office around here than Judy Garland or Harry Belafonte put together? Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, that's who. The group's seven performances here broke Judy's and Harry's record: every seat sold, plus 250 extra chairs per show—and an advance sale of \$114,112. Mr. Alpert, aged 29, received 60 per cent . . . The death of the

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beloved artist, Maxfield Parrish, sent Hurford Sharon to his files (he is a member of the Sharon clan, which built the Palace Hotel). There, Hurford found the correspondence, dated 1909, between Fred Sharron and Parrish, in which Sharon asked for "an original painting suitable for the Palace bar." Parrish, then living in Windsor, Vt., decided on the Pied Piper, which became the name of the bar, and used the children in his neighborhood as the subjects. Sharon paid \$6,000 for the celebrated picture, which is now insured for \$50,000 and is probably worth twice that.

That although censorship in any form is intolerable, it would be nice if we libertarians were provided with something more noble to defend than Ralph Ginzburg's tacky little publication, or those sleazy "underground" movies that indeed are without redeeming social or artistic merit. I will still defend almost to the death the right of these types to piddle around with their junk, but forgive me if my indignation is less than total.

That among the real mysteries of the AGE is the apparent growing appeal of the John Birch Society.

That the Golden Gate Bridge people could find a way to prevent suicides, if they really wanted to—but apparently an "unsightly fence" is less to be desired than a death toll that gives the bridge a world-wide notoriety. Quote "If they don't jump here, they'd jump someplace else." Prove it.

That capital punishment will be with us for a long time because killing a killer is easier than thinking further about him and the problem.

ROYCE BRIER

Deadweight of Tradition Cause of Indian Famine

There are many discouraging aspects in the plight of India, but President Johnson could get from Congress what he asks to forestall a famine condition now threatened there.

This rescue operation would probably be more promising were India a tightly integrated state which could enforce these measures necessary to lift it from its food depression. But a more integrated state might be a less democratic state existing in the shadow of totalitarian China.

The President's plan requires authorization to manipulate some of our surpluses. This year he wants to ship 3.5 million tons of grain, mostly wheat, together with corn, tobacco and cotton. In addition, Canada plans to ship 1 million tons of wheat, and all to be purchased with rupees.

This immense supply (which exceeds the annual American production of wheat) is now needed to alleviate the malnutrition which rapidly becomes famine unless arrested.

The President appealed to other nations with food surpluses to aid India, or to

provide industrial goods, particularly fertilizers and shipping.

The crisis, which has already brought riots in some areas, has complex roots, experts say. It is partly due to poor seasonal crops. But it is partly due to inefficient farm administration, and again to the difficulty of moving against the deadweight of tradition in the

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Indian agricultural masses.

No way has yet been found to make widespread inroads on ancient Indian farming methods. In this connection, there is a marked deficiency of fertilizers, which must be imported or manufactured in India. But the latter requires some years to get going, and is of no avail this year.

India could increase its food supply at least 50 per cent with adequate fertilizer technique, experts say, but there must be efficient distribution and ready acceptance by the farmer on the soil.

This, then, is the problem.

but it is on such a scale that experts are not in full agreement on the detail of basic need.

Behind the problem is the population problem. With 490 million people, increasing 12 million a year, no solution can even be approached which does not increase food supply in excess of 2.4 per cent annually. A 5 per cent increase over many years is indicated as a minimum.

But India's problem is ours, dwarfing what so concerns us in Indo-China. From our viewpoint India is, next to Japan, the most important anchor of a free and orderly world in the East.

Quote

The University's main business is the advancement of learning; if we neglect learning, we will abuse our central responsibility. —Johnua Lederberg, Stanford professor.

Undoubtedly people of my age reminisce about the good old days on the Lark—but I'd guess most of that reminiscing takes place on jets.—SP attorney W. Harney Wilson.

I marvel that those who wrote Genesis got such a jolly good picture of creation without us scientists to help them out.—L.S.B. Leakey, UCLA anthropologist.

The point of current interest in automobile safety is not in preventing accidents, but in making accidents safer.—W. F. Krause, Los Angeles.

I want to have my cake and eat it too. I want to look sexy if I have to, but also act.—Jean Hale, Hollywood actress.

My Neighbors



"You don't like my new hair-do—I can tell!"